Name of the Exchanges	No. of inspections made by supervisors and senior officers during the last six months
Mankhurd	2680
Bowai	1844
Mulund	3176
Thane	1513
Madras Telephone District	
Ambattur	165
Avadi	47
Central East	1680
Central West	3473
Harbour	1083
Kalmandapam	780
Kellys	1966
Kilpauk	1270
Madharam	410
Toonamallee	12
Adyar	2708
Old Anna Road	2280
New Anna Road	3732
Kodambakkam	2222
Mambalam I	3099
Mambalam II	2367
Mylapore	2572
Nungambakkam	3201
Chrompet and Tambaram	1446
St. Thomas Mount	2420

Time taken for rectifying defects in Disconnected telephones

1776. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone engineers take a lot of time for rectifying the defects in telephones and many a time they take days together to set right the telephones;

(b) if so, what are the details of complaints received during 1984 and the first six months of 1985 in Bombay and Delhi for rectifying telephones and average time taken in each case to rectify the defects;

(c) what is the maximum time taken to rectify the defects and nature of such defects;

(d) what are the reasons for hundreds, if not thousands of telephones going out of order due to rains; and

(e) what steps are taken by Government to ensure that during ordinary rains telephones are not affected in such large numbers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) It is not a fact that the telephone engineers take lot of time for rectification of defects in telephones. However, this delay sometimes extends to several days to detect and rectify the defects arising out of underground cable breakdowns since a large number of pairs are involved in each of these cables and the number of telephone affected is quite large.

(b)

	No. of complaints received in		Average time taken for rectification (in hours)	
	1984	1985 (First six months)	1984	1985 (First Six months)
Bombay	2541609	1219184	26.1	23.4
Delhi	1928260	955946	7.97	6.58

(c) The maximum delay in this year so far has been 493 hours in Delhi due to multiple faults in the underground cables in which only 9 telephones were involved, and 982 hrs. in Bombay due to continuous rains and scattered area and multiple faults in the cable.

(d) The under-ground cables are prone to damage in large metropolies due to increased activities for civic works. These faults are caused during the fair season when considerable amount of road surface digging takes place. But, the faults become obvious only in the rainy seasons. In addition to above another major cause for extensive damage to telephone system in Bombay during the last two years has been flooding of many areas due to failure of drainage system. Water level in many areas went upto 4-5 feet resulting in partial sub-merging of telephone equipments.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to avoid break-down of telephones during the monsoon season are as under:—

(1) Laying of main cables in ducts to protect them from external damage.

(2) Pressurisation of main cables to minimise the cable break-down faults.

(3) Use of jelly filled cables in the distribution network to prevent entry of water in the cables.

(4) Cable trenches are being flooded before being closed so as to detect any damage during the trenching or laying of cables.

(5) Extensive patrolling of cable routes to detect any digging operation and take precautionary measures to avoid damage to the cables.

(6) Covering the cables with half ducts where cable cannot be burried to the prescribed depth.

Wells drilled by ONGC

1777. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) how many exploratory wells were drilled by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during each year, 1982-83 to 1984-85;

(b) whether the progress made by ONGC is adequate; and

(c) if not, what steps have been taken by Government to readjust the priorities for ONGC for exploration and production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA):

Year	Number of exploratory Wells drilled
1982-83	73
1983-84	72
1984-85	79

(a), (b) and (c) There was some shortfall in drilling. Some of the steps being taken to improve drilling performance are:—

(i) Modernization of equipment

(ii) Provision of adequate technical and administrative back up

(iii) Training of drilling and maintenance personnel.

Offer by France for modernisation of Telecommunication

1778. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has offered to assist in the improvement and modernisation of the telecommunication network in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras;